



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

15 Sept 2015

Ms. Kristi Young
Acting, Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
300 Ala Moana Boulevard Room 3-122 Box 50088
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Ms. Young:

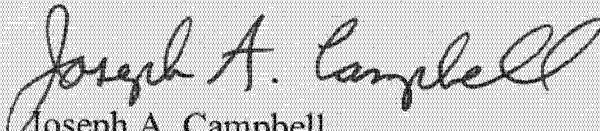
Thank you for your letter dated September 3, 2015 confirming receipt of my March 10, 2015 request to conference on the potential effects of the proposed military relocation to Guam on seven species proposed for listing on Guam. Since the original request to conference, you note that several surveys for proposed listed species have been conducted on Department of Defense lands on Guam. We have been informed about a survey titled "Plant Surveys, Joint Region Marianas," project number N40192-14-28002. We are reviewing this survey data and developing maps to determine if the new data is relevant to our proposed action. We will provide you updated information based on this review. Please confirm any additional surveys that you are aware of that have been completed since our original request to conference on March 10, 2015. As requested in your letter dated September 3, 2015, we request a formal conference on the species contained within the Conference Assessment for the Proposed Military Relocation to Guam provided to your office on March 10, 2015.

Your letter expresses concern about the conservation measures in the Conference Assessment (CA). As stated in my March 10, 2015 request for a conference, the CA was intended to be an appendix to the Biological Assessment (BA) and included within the Biological Opinion for the proposed action. Section 2 of the CA describes the conservation measures the Department of the Navy (DON) has or will implement to minimize or compensate for the effects on proposed and listed species due to construction and operations. Table 2-2 lists the conservation measures that were included in the BA and are also applicable to proposed threatened and endangered species. Additional conservation measures intended to avoid, minimize or compensate for the impacts specifically to the proposed threatened and endangered species are listed in Table 2-3 of the CA. Another significant development since we requested this conference, that positively impacts the species proposed for listing on Guam, is the June 2015 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Guam Micronesian kingfisher conservation. That initiative provides multi-species benefits as it focuses on habitat enhancement and conservation on 5,234 acres. The proposed listed species will benefit from the best management practices and conservation measures listed in the CA, the conservation measures in the biological opinion, and the implementation of the MOA.

I request that we reestablish our weekly leadership conference calls for the duration of our conferencing process. I am available to meet with you in person the morning of September 21, 2015 or on September 24, 2015 in Hawaii. I look forward to reviewing any additional species survey data and discussing any other outstanding questions so that we can move forward with this conference process.

My technical point of contact is Ms. Coralie Cobb, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest. For technical questions, please contact her at (720) 542-3085 or email at coralie.cobb@navy.mil. You may also contact me at (703) 602-3924 or email joseph.a.campbell@navy.mil.

Sincerely,


Joseph A. Campbell
Captain, U.S. Navy

Copy To:
DASN (E)
Joint Region Marianas